

2. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers are functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group of formula



where R_1 is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having up to 50 carbon atoms which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, and

R_2 and R_3 are identical or different and are branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radicals having up to 25 carbon atoms, which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms.

3. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers is polymerized with one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers selected from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates.

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the monomers are polymerized on a substrate.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the monomers are graft polymerized onto a substrate.

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the substrate is activated prior to graft polymerization by UV radiation, plasma treatment, corona treatment, flame treatment, ozonization, electrical discharge or γ -radiation.

7. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the substrate is activated prior to graft polymerization by UV radiation with a photosensitizer.

Please add the following new claims.

12. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the acrylates and methacrylates are selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, tert-butyl methacrylate, methyl methacrylate, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinyl ethers, acrylamides, acrylonitriles, allyl compounds, vinyl ketones, vinylacetic acid, vinyl acetates and vinyl esters.

13. (New) An article of manufacture comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising a polymer prepared by the process as claimed in Claim 1.

14. (New) A medical device comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising an antimicrobial polymer prepared by the process as claimed in Claim 1.

15. (New) A hygiene item comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising an antimicrobial polymer prepared by the process as claimed in Claim 1.

16. (New) A surface coating, protective paint or other coating comprising an antimicrobial polymer prepared by the process as claimed in Claim 1.

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